P72

Vol. VII. No. 12

MARCH, 1914

# The Playground

Commercial Recreation Legislation



Newport, Rhode Island

WOULD SUMMER BE SUMMER TO A BOY WITHOUT A CHANCE TO SWIM?

Twenty-five Cents a Copy

Two Dollars a Year

# The Playground

Published Monthly by the

# PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

1 Madison Avenue, New York City

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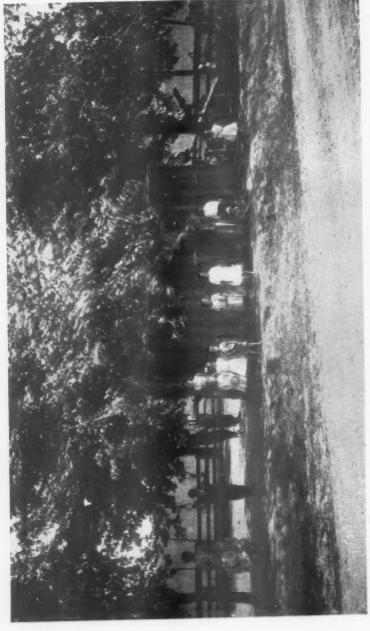
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Winnebago County, Ill. PROUD OF THEIR NEW APPARATUS

Playground Apparatus Installed as a Result of a School Social Held under the Direction of the Teacher of this Rural School



THINGS TO BE THOUGHT OF



A VISIT TO THE BLACKSMITH'S

Trinity Parish, New York City

#### COMPILED BY

#### JULIA SCHOENFELD

Field Secretary, Playground and Recreation Association of America, New York City

"Legislation is designed to protect the youth of the city, boys as well as girls, from evil influences."

Recent investigation in Chicago, New York, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Cleveland and elsewhere has revealed methods by which commercial recreation enterprises operate. Conditions were exposed which show that corrupt influences dominate many of these public places. Innocent amusement places were seen turned into vice-breeding dens, and, instead of simple social pleasure one saw drunkenness and immorality. The police witnessed all, but stood idly by, failing to see the crowds of young boys and girls who were there in violation of law.

Dance Halls

In some public dance halls tough dancing was practiced; indecent liberties were permitted. Prostitutes mingled with the youthful throng of merrymakers, thus gaining recruits for the underworld. Evil-minded men danced with innocent young girls. Frequently rooming houses or disorderly places in the neighborhood were operated by the same men who managed the dance hall.

It was shown that the dance hall in many cases existed for the sale of liquor, the dance lasting but a few minutes while the intermissions were very long.

Some places went so far as to offer prizes of \$100 to the girls who at the end of the month had the largest number of drinks placed to their credit. The halls were poorly lighted and badly ventilated; many were deficient in fire protection.

The investigations showed the close connection of these conditions with crime.

Motion Pictures

The rapid growth and phenomenal success of the motion picture show has produced many undesirable features which were brought to light. Investigation

<sup>\*</sup> Copies of ordinances passed by the State of Pennsylvania, by Cleveland, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Kansas City, Mo.; Denver, Colo.; Los Angeles, California, may be consulted at the offices of the Playground and Recreation Association of America. Many of the ordinances may be obtained by writing to the cities which have passed them.

showed that the houses were poorly lighted and badly ventilated. They were overcrowded and dangerous because of inadequate fire protection. Degrading and vulgar vaudeville features existed.

While the influence of the National Board of Censorship has brought about a higher standard in motion pictures, yet many objectionable films were found. There were many special feature films which had not been viewed by the National Board and often the requirements of the National Board were not carried out when the films were shown. Children were permitted to enter at all hours in violation of State and municipal laws. However, the motion picture shows did not show the same degree of degradation as the dance halls. Their conditions were really the result of inferior city regulations, carelessness, and a lack of intelligent service on the part of the inspectors.

#### Billiard and Pool Rooms

In the billiard and pool halls, and in the bowling alleys were found many of the degrading conditions that were in the dance halls. Patronized at all seasons by men and

boys, they have been exploited until today they are associated with undesirable and objectionable conditions. Card tables, craps, in fact gambling, in every form, was found; often these places were schools for crime; very young boys were seen standing about, listening eagerly to the vile talk and stories that were bandied about by the old habitues.

Many of the halls were connected with saloons, and much drunkenness was seen. Few cities have exacted any careful legislation and the supervision has been left entirely to the police department, which in many cities was shown to be ineffectual. Citizens have not been awake to the conditions that exist nor have they sought a remedy. The social opportunity in constructive legislation is large.

The passing of laws and the establishment of regulations for commercial amusement enterprises is of such recent date that it is quite impossible as yet to speak of results, but in the cities where the work has been followed, Kansas City, Denver, and Cleveland, the judges of the juvenile courts have stated that juvenile crimes and immorality have greatly decreased.

The following requirements are essential in all constructive legislation for the control of commercial recreation:

- 1. A license for all commercial amusement enterprises for the premises and not for the man who operates the amusement enterprise. This license is practically for control and not for revenue.
- Centralization of authority in a licensing bureau, preferably under the mayor
- 3. Regulations for safety and health
- 4. Prohibition of the sale of liquor
- 5. Proper closing hours
- 6. An age limit for young people
- 7. Revocation of licenses and adequate penalties for failure to comply with laws
- 8. Adequate inspection so that a normal moral tone is maintained and regulations enforced
- Licenses for amusement enterprises conducted in dance halls

#### DANCE HALLS AND PUBLIC DANCES

The following requirements should be sought for in working out legislation for dance halls:

1. A license should be required for the premises used for dance halls and not for the man who operates the hall. This places upon the owner of the hall responsibility for the conduct of the place.

Permits for public balls and dances should be exacted and satisfactory references furnished, in order that the type of frequenters of public halls may be regulated.

- 2. Regulations of the building and fire departments should be demanded in order to insure proper sanitation and adequate fire protection. Halls should be properly lighted and all rooms should be kept open. This gives an opportunity to close the small, dark, poorly-ventilated dance hall.
  - 3. The sale of liquor should be prohibited.
- 4. The giving of return checks to dancers should be forbidden, so that the saloons and immoral places that exist in a neighborhood may not be utilized during the dancing period.

Dance halls should not be allowed in connection with rooming houses or hotels.

- 5. Immoral dancing should be forbidden.
- 6. A reasonable hour for closing the dance should be exacted. Half-past twelve is suggested, with a possible special permit to be issued for later hours on occasion.
- 7. Attendance of minors under 18 should be forbidden unless accompanied by parent or guardian.
- 8. Inspection should be demanded and revocation of license or other penalty imposed for violations.
- 9. License fee should be flat or graded according to the size of the dancing space.

#### A SUGGESTED ORDINANCE

Regulating public dances and public halls and the licensing and regulation of	of
public dance halls and to repeal Ordinance No	
in the City of	
Be it ordained by	
and it is hereby ordained	
Sec 1	

That the term "public dance" or "public ball" as used in this Ordinance shall be taken to mean any dance or ball to which admission can be had by the payment of a fee or by the purchase, possession, or presentation of a ticket or token, or in which a charge is made for caring for clothing or other property, or any other dance to which the public generally may gain admission with or without the payment of the fee.

The word "public" as used in this Ordinance shall be construed as including the membership of any association, club or society to which new members are admitted without formal application and bona fide selection either by reference to or report from a standing committee or by a vote of the existing members present at a regular meeting of such association, club or society.

The term "public dance hall" as used herein shall be taken to mean any room, place or space in which a public dance, or public ball shall be held, or hall or academy in which classes in dancing are held and instruction in dancing is given for hire.

The word "dancing" as used in this and the succeeding sections shall not apply to exhibitions or performances in which the persons paying for admission do not participate.

#### SEC. 2.

It shall be unlawful on and after.....to hold any public dance or public ball, or to hold classes in dancing, or to

The application for such license shall be made in writing to the City Clerk, designating the location of such dance hall and the person or persons, society or corporation intending to conduct the same, accompanied with the fee of ......, whereupon a license shall be prepared and presented to the Mayor (or licensing authority) who at his discretion may grant or refuse the same. No license shall become effective until it has received the approval of the Mayor (or licensing authority) and in case he shall refuse to approve such license, the money so paid shall be returned to the applicant or his attorney, properly authorized to receive the same.

SEC. 3.

A public dance shall be discontinued and all public halls shall be closed on or before the hour of twelve (12) midnight. However, upon the application of a bona fide and responsible organization or society and upon an investigation by the licensing authority a permit may be granted to conduct a dance until 2 a. m. No ticket shall be sold or accepted for admission after the hour of twelve (12) o'clock midnight. No pass-out checks shall be granted during the dance. The regular admission fee shall be charged for each and every admission.

SEC. 4.

No license for a public dance hall shall be issued until it shall be found that such hall complies with and conforms to all building ordinances, health and fire regulations of the city and State, that it is properly ventilated and supplied with sufficient toilet conveniences and is a safe and proper place for the purpose for which it is to be used.

All public dance halls shall be kept at all times in a clean, healthful, and sanitary condition and all stairways and other passages and all rooms connected with the dance halls shall be kept open and well-lighted.

SEC. 5.

public dance hall as heretofore defined, or in any place in which dancing is advertised to be taught, or in which classes in dancing are advertised to be maintained, or in which instruction in dancing is given for hire, or in any room having interior connection with such hall.

(If license is granted to place where liquor is sold selling should cease at midnight.)

SEC. 6.

It shall be unlawful after 9:00 p. m. to permit any person to attend or take part in any public dance who has not reached the age of { sixteen (16) eighteen (18) } years, unless such person be accompanied by his or her parent or natural guardian.

It shall be unlawful for anyone to represent himself, or herself, to have reached the age of sixteen (16) eighteen (18) years in order to obtain admission to a public dance hall, or to be permitted to remain therein when such person in fact is under { sixteen (16) eighteen (18) years of age. And it shall also be unlawful for any person to represent himself, or herself, to be a parent or natural guardian, or any person, in order that such person may obtain admission to a public dance hall, or shall be permitted to remain therein when the party making the representation is not in fact, either a parent or natural guardian of the other person.

SEC. 7.

The Chief of Police, a Captain, Officer or Inspector of dance halls shall have the power and it shall be their duty to cause the hall, place or room where any dance or ball is held or given, to be vacated whenever any provision of the Ordinance with regard to public dances and public halls is being violated, or whenever any indecent act shall be committed, or whenever any disorder of a gross, violent or vulgar character shall take place therein and the license of such hall shall thereupon be revoked.

In any case where a license is revoked or where the licensing authority refuses to renew a license, reasons for the action must be stated in writing and shall be public records. Should the license of any place have been revoked twice within a period of six months, no new license shall be granted to such place for a period of at least one year from the date of the second revocation.

SEC. 8.

The Mayor or licensing authority shall appoint an Inspector (or Inspectors) of dance halls whose duty it shall be to examine all applications for dance hall licenses and to investigate each application to determine whether or not the dance hall sought to be licensed, complies with the regulations, ordinances and laws applicable thereto. And in the making of such investigation, he shall have the assistance of the Building Inspector, Sanitary Committee or the Board of Health and the Chief of the Fire Department. Such Inspector shall furnish to the Licensing Authority in writing, informa-

tion derived from such investigation accompanied by a recommendation as to whether the license shall be granted or refused. Such Inspector shall be permitted to have access to all public dance halls at all times. He shall investigate complaints and shall inspect at intervals the dance halls within the City and shall report all violations in writing. The money paid for licenses shall be applied toward the payment of the salaries of the inspectors appointed.

SEC. 9.

Every license of a public dance hall shall be in force for one (1) year from date of issue. Such license shall be posted at the main entrance of such dance hall. Such licensee must provide throughout the entire period of dancing an adequate supply of drinking water in an accessible place.

No license shall be renewed except after an inspection of the premises, as provided herein.

SEC. 10.

Any person, persons, society, corporation or club desiring a permit to hold a public dance or public ball, must apply for same at least three days before the date of dance and shall use the following form of application, a copy of which shall be secured from the licensing Clerk.

#### APPLICATION

The Mayor;
Sir:—The undersigned, on behalf of
hereby makes application for a permit
to give a public dance at Nostreet, on
expressly agreed that said dance shall be conducted in strict accord with the provisions of law regulating public dances and public balls, and the undersigned agrees that the permit is given and accepted subject to the provisions of this application, and that he shall be held responsible for any violation of any provision of law or ordinance regulating such public dance. The owner or lessee of the premises in which such dance is to be held is
address
No. street (avenue) Name
Occupation
No

#### LICENSE BY AUTHORITY

CLAS	5-DANCE	HALLS		
Th	City of		::} ss	
L	ICENSE IS	HEREBY GRA	ANTED to	
Licens	e \$		sum of	
	of th	e City of	to hold dances	
at			Hall	
	ions, restriction	ons and limitation	commencing May 15, 191, subject to the ons of the ordinances of the City.  NY WHEREOF, I hereunto sign my name	
1		and affix the s	seal of the said City this	
		day of	191	
			***************************************	
			City Clerk	
	15	SUED BY OR	DER OF THE MAYOR	
lo.		No.	License \$	
Repor			Class—DANCE HALLS	
CIT	Y	Issued to		
UDITOR				
Cree Gene Fur	eral		Address	
Lice	nse		Size of H <b>all</b>	
\$	count	Term o	of one year commencing on the Fifteenth of	
on acc		24 404		
of	E	May 191		
	i ICE	Issue	day	

THIS LICENSE MUST BE SO DISPLAYED AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE AS TO BE EASILY VISIBLE TO THE PUBLIC AT ALL TIMES

# PUBLIC DANCE HALL

Document No.	\$
THE	CITY OF
Manas's Office	License No.  Bureau of Licenses
Mayor's Office	
	State Date
	residing at
***************************************	in consideration of
conduct a PUBLIC DANG	CE HALL IN THE CITY OF
	at
	Borough of
***************************************	***************************************
	subject to the strict observance of all laws, ordi- acted for the protection of the city so far as they
may apply, particularly to	the provisions of ordinance
No	and Is to Continue in Force Until
Not Transferable.	unless Sooner Suspended or Revoked, and Is
****	Mayor
Countersigned	
***********	Cashier
Not Transferable	
PUBLIC DANCE H	ALL AND ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT
	Mayor's Office
No	City State
PERMISSION IS H	EREBY GIVEN to
ON BEHALF OF	
to give or hold a dance at.	
ON	191

It is hereby expressly understood that said dance shall be conducted in strict compliance with the provisions of the Laws of...... to regulate public dances and entertainments.

In further consideration of the granting of this Permit it is hereby expressly understood and agreed to that said dance shall not continue later than 12:00 o'clock midnight.

MAYOR

(STUB)

#### PUBLIC DANCE HALL AND ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT

Mayor's Office

191...

City State

No...

Given to

on behalf of...

to be held at...

on 191...

The first ordinance regulating the commercial dance hall was passed in New York on June 20, 1910. This ordinance exacted a flat fee from all dance halls irrespective of size or capacity. The Cleveland ordinance, passed in April, 1911, was an improvement over the New York ordinance in that the fee exacted was graded according to the size of the hall. The ordinance reads as follows:

If the dance hall has a floor space not exceeding 2500 square feet, the annual license fee shall be fifteen dollars.

If the dance hall has a floor space exceeding 2500 square feet but not exceeding 5000 square feet the annual license fee shall be twenty-five dollars.

If the dance hall has a floor space exceeding 5000 square feet but not exceeding 6500 square feet the annual license fee shall be thirty dollars.

If the dance hall has a floor space exceeding 6500 square feet, the annual license fee shall be fifty dollars.

In computing floor space only that part of the floor actually used for dancing shall be considered.

The Denver ordinance passed in 1912 not only covers the dance halls but all amusement places, including roller skating rinks. It is an improvement on the preceding ordinances in providing for the inspection of all public amusements, under two inspectors, one of whom must be a woman,—requiring the keeper or proprietor of the public dance hall to keep a register of all persons attending under the age of 21, which shall be subject to the inspection of the Inspector of Public Amusements and all probation or police officers.

#### MOTION PICTURES AND PENNY ARCADES

The following requirements should be sought for in working out legislation for motion picture shows:

- 1. A license for the premises used for motion picture shows
- 2. Definition of motion pictures and motion picture theatre
- 3. Regulations of the building and fire departments to insure proper sanitation and adequate fire protection
- 4. Standards of lighting and ventilation, so framed as to be thoroughly enforcible
- 5. Placing the question of censorship with the licensing authority, which will regulate the moral quality of the show, since through this authority it is possible to revoke or suspend a license, if the show is not up to a normal standard
- Requirement that children shall not be permitted to attend motion picture shows during school hours or after eight o'clock in the evening

The ordinance known as the Folks ordinance passed by the Board of Aldermen of New York City in July, 1913, carries out in detail the regulations suggested by the National Board of Censorship. Its text follows:

An Ordinance Relative to Motion Picture Theatres in the City of New York

Be it ordained by the Board of Aldermen of the City of New York, as follows: Chapter 7, Title 2, Article 3, Section 352—Motion Picture and Motion Picture Theatres.

#### 352 A

Motion pictures shall be deemed a display on a screen or other device whereby pictures are displayed of characters or objects in motion, whether or not accompanied by music, lecture, recitation or song.

#### 352 B

A motion picture theatre shall be deemed any public hall or room in the City of New York in which motion pictures are exhibited, in which the seating capacity does not exceed 600, and in which there is no stage or scenery.

An open air motion picture theatre shall be deemed any public place or space in the open air in the City of New York in which motion pictures are exhibited, and in which there is no stage or scenery.

The Mayor shall appoint such inspectors as shall be necessary to carry out the provisions of this ordinance. They shall be known as "Motion Picture Theatre Inspectors" and shall be paid such compensation as shall be fixed by the Board of Aldermen on recommendations of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

#### 352 C

The Bureau of Licenses shall issue all motion picture licenses granted by the Mayor, and, by the authority of the Mayor, shall regulate and control all motion picture theatres provided.

1. Applicants for motion picture theatre licenses shall file plans and specifications of the motion picture theatre with the Bureau of Buildings of the borough in which the motion picture theatre is to be situated, and must file a copy of such plans and specifications, duly approved by the Superintendent of Buildings, with the application for the license, which application shall be made to the Bureau of Licenses on blanks furnished by it for that purpose.

2. The Bureau of Licenses shall, without delay upon the request of an applicant, pass upon the location of the motion picture theatre and upon the

character of the applicant requesting the license.

3. The Bureau of Licenses shall request the Fire Department, Bureau of Buildings, Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, and Department of Health to inspect said theatres, and the said departments shall file in the Bureau of Licenses, within ten days, detailed written reports, which shall include a statement of any violations of law, ordinances, rules and regulations, and any dangerous conditions. Upon the failure of any of said departments (excepting the Fire Department) to file detailed written reports in reply to the request of the Bureau of Licenses, the said bureau may disregard said department and in its discretion may issue a license.

4. Until the provisions of this ordinance shall have been complied with, no license shall be issued.

#### 352 D

1. Plans-Before the erection, construction or alteration of a building, or part thereof, to be used as a motion picture theatre, there must be filed with the Superintendent of Buildings complete plans and detailed statement as set forth in section 4 of the Building Code. The plans must show clearly

and fully the location and width of all exits, passageways, stairs, fire escapes, aisles, etc.; arrangement of seats, size of floor beams, walls, supports, etc.; the location and construction of the inclosure for the motion picture light and machinery, and for other similar apparatus; a diagram of the lot or plot, showing outlets from all exits, and also such other statements, plans or details as may be required by the Superintendent of Buildings.

2. Prohibition—Motion picture theatres shall not be constructed in frame buildings within the fire limits, nor in hotels, tenement houses or lodging houses, nor in factories or workshops, except where the theatre is separated from the rest of the building by unpierced fireproof walls and floors, and in no case shall they be constructed or operated above or below

the ground floor of any building.

3. Exits and Courts—All such buildings must be provided on the main floor of the theatre with at least two separate exits, one of which shall be in the front and the other in the rear, both leading to unobstructed outlets on the street. Where the main floor of the theatre accommodates more than 300 people there shall be at least three such exits, the aggregate width in feet of such exits shall not be less than one-twentieth of the number of persons to be accommodated thereby. No exits shall be less than 5 feet in width, and there shall be a main exit not less than 10 feet in total width.

In all such buildings to be erected or to be altered so as to be used for a motion picture theatre, if unobstructed exits to a street cannot be provided at the rear of such buildings, as herein specified, either an open court or a fireproof passage or corridor must be provided from rear exits to the

street front of at least the following width:

Four feet in the clear for theatres accommodating 100 persons or less; for every additional 100 persons the width to be increased 8 inches. Such passage must be constructed of fireproof material and must be at least 10 feet high in the clear. The walls forming such passage must be at least 8 inches thick, of brick or other approved fireproof material, and if there be a basement the wall on the auditorium side should be either run 1 foot below the cellar bottom or may be carried in the cellar on iron columns and girders properly fireproofed according to sections 106 and 107 of the Building Code.

The ceiling of said passage, and if there be a basement, the flooring

must be constructed according to section 106 of the Building Code.

If unobstructed rear exit or exits to a street are provided, the said exit or exits must be of the same total width required for the court or passage above mentioned.

Said passages and exits to the street, as above, must be used for no other purposes except for exit and entrance and must be kept free and clear.

The level of the open court or passage at the front of the building shall not be greater than one step above the level of the sidewalk, and the grade shall not be more than 1 foot in 10, with no perpendicular rises.

All exit doors must be unlocked when building is open to the public. They must be fireproof and made to open outwardly and so arranged as not to obstruct the required width of exit or court when opened. All doors leading to fire escapes must be not less than 40 inches wide in the clear, and

shall be located at the opposite side or end of the gallery from other exit doors.

4. Galleries and Stairs—A gallery may be permitted, except in a theatre erected on a lot less than 20 feet in width, but it shall not include more than 25 per cent of the total seating capacity of the theatre. Entrance to and from said gallery shall in no case lead to the main floor of the theatre, and the gallery shall be provided with a stair or stairs equipped with handrails on both sides. Stairs over 7 feet wide shall be provided with centre handrail. The risers of the stairs shall not exceed 7¼ inches, and the treads, excluding posings, shall not be less than 9½ inches. There shall be no circular or winding staircases.

The total width of the stairs shall not be less than 8 feet in the clear where the gallery accommodates 150 people; for every 50 people less than 150 which the gallery accommodates said width may be reduced 1 foot.

Stairs shall be constructed of fireproof material, and such material and the bearing capacity of such stairs shall be approved by the Bureau of Buildings.

Galleries must also be provided with at least one line of fire escapes leading to an open court, fireproof passage or street without reentering the same or any other building.

If the fire escape leads to a point in the court nearer the street than any exit, there must be a width of not less than 4 feet in the clear between the outer edge of the fire escape and the outer wall of the court.

5. Fire Escapes—All fire escapes must have balconies not less than 3 feet 4 inches in width in the clear and not less than 4 feet 6 inches long, and from said balconies there shall be staircases extending to the ground level with a rise of not over 73/4 inches and a step of not less than 91/2 inches, and the width of the stairs must not be less than 3 feet 4 inches.

6. Auditorium and Other Rooms—If the walls of the auditorium contain wood studs they shall be covered with either expanded metal lath or wire mesh and plastered with three coats of first class plaster, or may be covered with metal on one-half inch plaster boards. The joints shall be properly filled with mortar.

The ceilings of all such rooms shall be plastered with three coats of first class plaster on wire mesh or metal lath, or covered with one-half inch plaster boards, and plastered or covered with metal.

If there be a basement or cellar the ceiling under the auditorium floor must be plastered with three coats of first class plaster on wire mesh or expanded metal lath or may be covered with metal on one-half inch plaster boards.

The basement or cellar under the auditorium shall be kept free and clear, except the space used for the heating apparatus, for machinery connected with the theatre and for coal.

7. Construction of Booths—Apparatus for projecting motion pictures shall be enclosed in a booth or enclosure constructed so as to be fireproof, in accordance with the specifications of chapter 756 of the Laws of 1911. The booth shall be equipped with a vent flue as prescribed in section 352 E, paragraph 3, of this ordinance. Booths shall contain an approved fireproof

box for the storage of films not on the projecting machine. Films shall not be stored in any other place on the premises; they shall be rewound and repaired either in the booth or in some other approved fireproof enclosure.

Where miniature motion picture machines are employed in connection with private exhibitions the requirements of the above paragraph may be so modified as to permit, instead of the regulation booth, an approved fire-proof box, unventilated, and of a size only sufficient to properly enclose the machine.

- 8. Gradients—To overcome any difference of level in and between corridors, lobbies and aisles, gradients of not over 1 foot in 10 feet, or steps having a rise not over 8 inches and a width of not less than 10 inches must be used.
- 9. Aisles—All aisles in the auditorium and gallery must not be less than 3 feet wide in the clear. No aisle, passageway or space in the rear of the auditorium shall be obstructed by any camp stool, chair, sofa, settee, nor shall any person be permitted to stand or sit therein.
- 10. Chairs—All chairs in the auditorium except those contained in the boxes, must not be less than 32 inches from back to back and must be firmly secured to the floor. No seat in the auditorium shall have more than seven seats intervening between it and an aisle. The space occupied by each person shall be separated from the adjoining space by means of an arm or other suitable device.
- 11. Signs Over Exits—Over every exit there must be painted on the inside in letters not less than 6 inches high, the word "Exit" in legible type, and one red light or illuminated sign must be placed inside over each exit, and illuminated while the audience is present.
- 12. Floor Loads—The flooring of that portion of the building devoted to the uses or accommodation of the public must be of sufficient strength to bear safely a live load of 90 pounds per square foot.
  - 13. Toilets-Toilets separate for sexes must be provided.
- 14. Fire Apparatus—Portable fire apparatus shall be provided of the following kind and number: Ten-quart capacity buckets, painted red with the word "Fire" in black, the letters 4 inches high, to the number of 6 for places seating less than 300 without a gallery, and two additional if there be a gallery; to the number of ten in places seating over 300 persons, and four additional if there be a gallery. There shall be two buckets containing dry sand kept in the operating booth; approved fire extinguishers of 2½-gallon capacity of the regulation Fire Department pattern, of which 2 shall be on the main floor and 2 in the gallery, if there be one, and 1 in the operating booth; 4 pound flat head axes, 2 of which shall be on the main floor and 2 in the gallery, if there be one.

#### 352 E

1. Lighting—Every portion of a motion picture theatre, including exits, courts and corridors devoted to the uses or accommodation of the public, shall be so lighted by electric light during all exhibitions and until the entire audience has left the premises that a person with normal eyesight should be able to read the Snellen standard test type 40 at a distance of 20 feet and

type 30 at a distance of 10 feet; normal eyesight meaning ability to read type 20 at a distance of 20 feet in daylight. Cards showing types 20, 30 and 40 shall be displayed on the side walls, together with a copy of this paragraph of the ordinance.

2. Heating—When the temperature of the outdoor air is below 60 degrees F. the air in the theatre, while an audience is present, shall be maintained at a temperature not lower than 62 degrees F. nor higher than 70 degrees F.

If gas stoves, oil stoves or other apparatus throwing off products of combustion are used to heat motion picture theatres, said products of combustion must be carried to the outside air by means of a fireproof flue or flues.

No radiator shall be placed in the aisles so as to lessen the width below

the minimum requirement.

3. Ventilation—Motion picture theatres having less than 200 cubic feet of air space for each person, or motion picture theatres in which the outside window and door area is less than one-eighth of the floor area, shall be provided with artificial means of ventilation which shall supply during the time the audience is present at least 500 cubic feet of fresh air per hour for each person.

Motion picture theatres having more than 200 cubic feet of air space for each person, or which have outside windows and doors, the area of which is equal to at least one-eighth of the floor area, shall be provided with artificial means of ventilation, which shall be in operation when the outside temperature requires the windows to be kept closed, and which shall supply, during the time the audience is present, at least 500 cubic feet of fresh air per hour for each person. When the artificial ventilation is not in operation, ventilation by means of open doors and windows shall be sufficient to provide each person with 500 cubic feet of fresh air per hour.

Motion picture theatres having more than 1,000 cubic feet of air space for each person and having outside windows and doors, the area of which is equal to at least one-eighth of the total floor area, shall not be required to have artificial means of ventilation, provided the air is thoroughly changed by freely opening doors and windows immediately before the admission of the audience, and at least every four hours thereafter.

No part of the fresh air supply by any of the above paragraphs of this section shall be taken from any source containing vitiated air.

The area of outside doors and windows shall mean the area capable of being freely opened to the outside air for ventilation purposes.

When fresh air is supplied by means of ventilating openings, at least one inlet shall be situated at one end of the room. Where exhaust or inlet fans are necessary, at least one of such fans shall be placed in an outlet opening. The inlet opening or openings shall be placed in the floor or within 2 feet from the floor, and the outlet opening or openings in the ceiling or within 2 feet of the ceiling. The inlet openings and their surroundings shall be kept free from dust so that the incoming air shall not convey dust nor stir up dust as it enters.

During the time the audience is present, the air in the theatre shall be kept continuously in motion by means of fans to the number of at least 1

to every 150 persons. Such fans shall be placed in positions remote from the inlet and outlet openings. No person shall be exposed to any direct draft from any air inlet.

The booth in which the picture machine is operated shall be provided with an opening in its roof or upper part of its side walls, leading to the outdoor air. The vent flue shall have a minimum cross sectional area of 50 square inches and shall be fireproof. When the booth is in use, there shall be a constant current of air passing outward through said opening or vent flue, at the rate of not less than 30 cubic feet per minute.

The specifications of the above paragraph shall apply to portable booths and booths in open air theatres.

#### 352 F

Motion picture theatres must be kept clean and free from dust.

The floors, where covered with wood, tiles, stone, concrete, linoleum, or other washable material, shall be mopped or scrubbed with water or swept with moisture or by some other dustless method, at least once daily, and shall be scrubbed with water and soap, or water and some other solvent substance at least once weekly.

Carpets, rugs and other fabric floor coverings shall be cleaned at least once daily by means of suction cleaning, beating or dustless sweeping. Curtains and draperies shall be cleaned at least once monthly by suction cleaning, beating or washing. Cornices, walls and other dust-holding places shall be kept free from dust by washing or moist wiping. The wood and metal parts of all seats shall be kept clean. Fabric upholstering of seats and railings and other fixed fabrics shall be cleaned by suction cleaning, or other dustless method, at least once monthly.

#### 352 G

Through its Motion Picture Inspectors, as provided in sub-section 352 B of this ordinance, the Bureau of Licenses shall inspect, subject to the authority of the Mayor, the character of exhibitions in motion picture theatres and shall report to the Mayor any offense against morality, decency or public welfare contained in said exhibitions.

#### 352 H

All the provisions contained in this ordinance shall apply to existing places of entertainment, where motion pictures are exhibited under a common show license, in case the seating capacity be increased and in case the seating capacity be not increased, all the provisions of this ordinance shall apply, except those provisions of subsection 352 D, designated as numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, but the Bureau of Licenses shall have power in its discretion to enforce the provisions of said paragraph 3 of Section 352 D as to exits and courts.

#### 352 I

Existing places of entertainment seating 300 persons, or less, where motion pictures are exhibited in conjunction with any other form of entertainment, must comply, before a reissuance of its license, with the provi-

sions of section 109 of the Building Code, covering theatres seating more than 300 persons. But if such existing place of entertainment discontinue all other form of entertainment except the exhibition of motion pictures, it may be licensed in accordance with the provisions of subsection 352 H.

#### 352 J

With the exception of paragraph 7 of subsection 352 D, subsections 352 A to 352 F, inclusive, and subsections 352 H, 352 I, 352 K and 352 L of this ordinance shall not apply to motion picture exhibitions with or without charge for admission, conducted under the direct management of educational or religious institutions, nor to motion picture exhibitions without charge for admission given or held not more than once a week in private residences or bona fide social, scientific, political or athletic clubs. Before motion pictures shall be exhibited in any of the places above mentioned, there shall be obtained from the Bureau of Licenses a permit for such exhibition. Before granting such permit, the Bureau of Licenses shall cause to be inspected the premises where such proposed exhibition will be held, and shall grant the permit if in its judgment the safety of the public be properly guarded, and provided that for an audience of more than 75 people all chairs or seats shall be securely fastened to the floor or fastened together in rows.

#### 352 K

The Bureau of Licenses, at its discretion, shall specify the seating capacity for each open air motion picture theatre. Aisles must be 4 feet wide, or wider, in the discretion of the Bureau of Licenses. At least two separate exits, remote from each other, shall be provided, and no exit shall be less than 5 feet in width; for every 25 persons to be accommodated in excess of 300, the total width of exits shall be increased 1 foot. All exits must be indicated by signs and red lights, and the doors must open outwardly. Seats must be stationary, with backs 32 inches apart, and so arranged that no seat shall have more than 7 seats intervening between it and an aisle. The floor must be constructed either of wood with sleepers or concrete, and must extend at least five feet from the seats on all sides, provided, however, that in the discretion of the Bureau of Licenses, a gravel floor may be substituted for wood or concrete. Chairs must be either securely fastened to wood or concrete floor, or all chairs in a row must be fastened together, and at least four rows must be securely fastened to one frame, except that where refreshments are served, tables and unattached chairs or benches used with them may be permitted.

#### 352 L

Only subsections 352 A, 352 B, 352 C, 352 D, paragraphs 7 and 13; 352 G, 352 J and 352 K of this ordinance shall apply to open air motion picture theatres.

This ordinance shall take effect thirty days after its approval by the Mayor. All other rules, regulations and ordinances inconsistent herewith and affecting buildings and places to be occupied as herein defined are hereby revoked.

The Los Angeles ordinance states very definitely the kind of film that may be exhibited or displayed in Los Angeles, and provides also for membership of an Advisory Committee which shall enforce the censorship.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to exhibit or display, or cause or permit to be exhibited, or displayed at any nickelodeon, penny arcade or moving or motion picture exhibition, or at any entertainment at which moving or motion pictures are exhibited or displayed any picture, illustration or delineation of any nude human figure in such detail as to offend public morality or decency; or of any lewd or lascivious act, or of any other matter or thing of an obscene, indecent or immoral nature, or offensive to the moral sense; or any murder, suicide, robbery, hold-up, stabbing, clubbing or beating of any human being, wherein such acts are shown in grewsome detail or in a revolting manner, or in any manner objectionable to the moral sense; or to permit or allow any person to sing any obscene song, to converse or discourse in obscene language or to permit or allow any phonograph or similar device to be used for the reproduction of any obscene song, conversation or discourse.

The Kansas City ordinance vests the power of licensing and censorship in the Board of Public Welfare, in which is centered all responsibility for the regulation of commercial amusement enterprises.

The Pennsylvania State Law is significant because the law very definitely goes into the building requirements, sanitary and fire regulations and the building of proper booths; it also provides for a State censorship of the pictures that are shown.

#### BOWLING ALLEYS AND POOL ROOMS

In working out legislation for bowling alleys and pool rooms, the following requirements should be sought:

- A license should be exacted for the premise and not for the man who operates the alley or pool room. This license is practically for control and not for revenue.
- 2. Boys under 18 should not be permitted to enter.
- No liquor should be sold or gambling allowed on the premises.
- 4. Proper regulations for ventilation and sanitation should be demanded.
- 5. The license should be revoked for violations.

Pittsburgh developed an ordinance in 1898, but for the most part there are few ordinances regulating pool and billiard

halls which cover the conditions that now exist. In most cities the regulation of these places comes under the duties of the police and the standard of the halls depends upon the quality of the police force. The Cleveland ordinance prohibits the opening of pool or billiard rooms in any grocery, saloon, or public place upon Sunday.

#### A MODEL ORDINANCE

Providing for licensing pool, billiard, pigeon hole and bagatelle tables and bowling alleys. Providing for the revocation of such licenses and repealing all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith Be it ordained, etc.

#### SEC. 1.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to open, carry on, maintain or conduct any pool, billiard, pigeon hole or bagatelle tables or bowling alley for which a reward or compensation shall be charged for the use thereof within the City of ...... without having obtained a City license for same.

#### SEC. 2.

The fee of such license shall be the sum of \$5.00 per annum for each table and \$10.00 for each alley and no license shall be issued for a period longer than one year.

#### SEC 3

Any person, firm or corporation desiring to open, maintain, carry on or conduct any such table or bowling alley mentioned in Section 1 hereof, shall make application in writing to the licensing authority for such a license. Such application shall state the place where table or tables or bowling alley is to be maintained and operated; the name and address of the applicant, and, if a person or firm, the residence and business of such person or the members of such firm for a period of six months prior to such application.

#### SEC. 4.

The licensing authority shall investigate as to the character and fitness of the applicant to carry on such business, and may for any unfitness of the applicant or from public policy refuse to grant the license. No license shall be granted until it shall be found that such place complies with the health requirements of the city, and that it is properly ventilated.

#### SEC. 5.

Whenever any application for license, as herein provided for, shall be made, a deposit shall be made with the City Treasurer covering the amount of such license, and if such license be granted by the licensing authority the License Clerk shall, upon the presentation of the Treasurer's receipt for the proper amount, issue a license to the applicant therefor; and in case such

license is not granted, then the money so deposited with the Treasurer shall be returned to the applicant.

SEC. 6.

The licensing authority shall have the right at any time to revoke any such license heretofore granted or granted under the provisions of this Ordinance, and all licenses granted under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be granted upon the express condition that the licensing authority may revoke any such license for cause.

SEC. 7.

No person shall keep open any billiard or pool room, any bowling alley or any room or place within the city where any billiard or pool table or bowling alley is kept, used or operated for profit between the hours of twelve (12) midnight and six (6) o'clock a. m. No licensee or his employee or any person in charge of any billiard table, pool hall, bagatelle table, pigeon hole table or bowling alley shall at any time with or without gain or profit, permit or allow any such table or part of alley to be used by any person under eighteen for any purposes whatever, nor shall any licensee permit such persons to frequent or congregate on the premises for which such public license shall have been granted. Nor shall any licensee permit any drunken or disorderly persons to frequent or congregate on the premises for which such public license shall have been granted.

SEC. 8.

It shall be unlawful for any person or corporation to permit gambling to be carried on in any pool or billiard room or bowling alley or any room or place where any pool or billiard room or bowling alley is kept which is licensed under this act.

SEC. 9.

Any person, firm or corporation violating the provisions of this Ordinance, or failing to comply with its terms and conditions shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$5.00 or more than \$100.00, and in addition thereto the license for such place shall be revoked. In any case where a license is revoked or where the licensing authority refuses to renew a license, reasons for the action must be stated in writing and shall be public records. Should the license of any place have been revoked, no new license shall be granted for such a place for a period of at least six (6) months from the date of revocation.

SEC. 10.

It shall be the duty of every person, firm or corporation taking out such a license to keep same posted in a conspicuous place in the room where such business is carried on.

SEC. 11.

Any ordinance or part of ordinance conflicting with the provisions of this ordinance shall be, and the same is hereby repealed as the same affects this ordinance.

DISCUSSION OF ARTICLE ON EQUIPMENT BY HENRY S. CURTIS, Ph.D., IN THE PLAYGROUND FOR NOVEMBER

Fencing Necessary

Dr. Curtis is, in my judgment, absolutely right in his insistence that every playground should be properly fenced. The fence should, of course, be sufficiently high so as to be practically unclimbable either from within or from without, as otherwise there is a great temptation to the children to use it as an entrance or exit. Most of the playgrounds conducted by the Board of Education of New York City are located in schools, where the iron railing at the entrance acts as an effective barrier. In some cases where we have used vacant sites, the tasks of discipline and supervision have been greatly increased where no adequate fence was provided.

Separate
Playgrounds for
Boys and Girls
Advisable

Separate playgrounds for boys and girls are very advisable. We have found that our plan of using the separate school entrances simplified the problem. In all our larger playgrounds the school property runs

through the block, thus making it easy to have the boys enter from one street and the girls from the other street. At certain times, however, the children are brought together. The assembly exercises are co-educational, as the singing is greatly improved by the girls' voices, and it is also advisable to have the playground as a unit for such patriotic exercises as the "Salute to the Flag" and the singing of the national songs.

Sand Play Very Valuable Every lover of children will say "Amen!" to the strong emphasis which Dr. Curtis places upon the value of the sand-pile. We have found that the sand boxes are a great

source of interest, and become a necessary part of the play-ground equipment. The little ones gather around the sand in great numbers and make forts, houses, tunnels, and all sorts of castellated structures which show wonderful imagination on the part of the juvenile architects. Every effort is made to keep the sand clean by sprinkling it, exposing it to the sun, and frequently replenishing the supply. There is considerable force to Dr. Curtis' criticism that the spilling of the sand makes a dirty playground. We have found an effectual remedy in

"The Sanitary Squad" provided with little shovels, brooms and wheelbarrows. The little ones make the rounds of the sand piles at frequent intervals, and exercise every vigilance to keep a clean playground.

Suggestions as to Slides Slides are a very important part of a satisfactory equipment. Two kinds, however, should be provided (1) Small slides with

only a short elevation for the younger children and (2) Higher slides with more steps and a longer incline for the older children. If only one kind is provided, there is a danger that the big boys or girls crowd off the smaller children, or if not, there is a danger that the little ones may be hurt if they attempt the higher slides. The slide is an ideal form of playground equipment, as it is not too expensive and practically runs itself without a teacher, as the children are after all good American citizens and straighten out the lines of youngsters who wish their turn, so that each one comes in his or her regular place. Until the children have learned the plan of going in regular order, a young teacher or a large boy acting as monitor should direct this form of recreation. The greatest value of the slide is that the boys and girls must do the physical work of climbing the steps or ladder leading to the slide and then run around from the bottom of the incline to the steps. In this way there is considerable exercise, so that the children really work their passage.

Playgrounds for Mothers and Babies Swings are a decided necessity in all large playgrounds and Dr. Curtis makes valuable suggestions regarding their installation and the measures for protecting not only the

safety but the morals of the children as well. In all our playgrounds we have been able to supply hammock swings for the babies and in congested districts the sleep of the infants in the hammocks proves to be the most restful of the entire day.

Dr. Curtis states that in Seward Park mothers were in the habit of putting their children to sleep and then going away, so that the teacher in charge really had a nursery on her hands. We have not had this difficulty. The mothers arrange to bring some from of occupation with them. In sewing, knitting, crocheting or some other form of manual work the mothers are thus kept busy. We have also provided books for them to read

while their infants are sleeping. A valuable addition to the equipment has been the phonograph, so that excellent music is provided, including many of the fine songs of hearth and home, such as "Annie Laurie," "Auld Lang Syne," "My Old Kentucky Home," "Blue Bells of Scotland," and "Last Rose of Summer."

It is difficult for us to have just the right number of hammock swings in each playground. One principal said to me last summer, "What shall I do? I have thirty-eight babies who want to sleep, and only eighteen hammocks." I told her to give the preference to those who were brought by their mothers and that I should try to send an additional supply of hammocks as soon as possible. The limitation of the funds at our disposal, however, often prevents an adequate supply.

Personality More Important than Equipment The Board of Education cannot afford to install giant strides, teeters, merry-gorounds and other expensive apparatus indicated in the equipment by Dr. Curtis. It

has always been our policy to emphasize the personality of the principal and teachers as being more important than play-ground equipment. The right kind of teacher will keep a large number of children busily employed with no other apparatus than a basket ball, volley ball and an indoor baseball. A poor teacher, however, will do no effective work even if all the latest and most up-to-date apparatus is provided.

Regarding outdoor gymnasiums, if they are to be installed in playgrounds just for the summer months, we have found them very expensive. The cost of taking them down, storing them for the winter, and re-erecting them for the playground season makes them almost impracticable. In addition, as Dr. Curtis clearly points out, they are very difficult to supervise. Their very variety of equipment makes good squad work difficult or impossible. Too often, venturesome boys climb to the top and essay dangerous stunts, or play tag or other games at such an altitude that a fall becomes very easy, often with serious injury. The cost of installing an outdoor gymnasium will furnish a large number of baseballs, basket balls, volley balls, quiet games, (checkers, dominoes, lotto, parchesi) and a quantity of necessary kindergarten material.

If Only Money Were Available I agree with Dr. Curtis that it is difficult to state just what is the standard equipment necessary for a live playground. Some day when our nation realizes that welfare is

more important than warfare, we shall not spend ten millions of dollars for a single battleship, but shall use the money to better use to install playgrounds with proper equipment. Just think that if we were allowed five thousand dollars as an average cost of equipment, we could install two thousand playgrounds for the boys and girls who are to be the future citizens of our country, for the cost involved in building one superdreadnaught! And after a short time the battleship will be fit only for the scrap heap while the playground apparatus with proper care will last for many years, and the sturdy Americans created through its help will for ages influence the physical, moral and civic welfare of our nation.

In the center of the playground floats the American flag, and the playground spells not only physical improvement but patriotism as well. The teachers who assist rather than direct the

#### A Playground Dream

apparatus, so arranged that separate provision is made for the older boys, girls and the little ones of kindergarten age. Many children are in attendance, happy at various forms of play, but not unduly crowding any special apparatus. Just the right number of teachers are present to direct the play of the children and to take part in the organized games, as partners, not as leaders. Swings, slides, see-saws, giant strides, merry-go-rounds and other devices for play are all in evidence. Happy children surround each apparatus, but there are so many varieties of play that no one activity is overcrowded. A number of sand piles give much enjoyment to many of the little ones. Piano and phonograph as well furnish excellent music. Teachers do not seem worried over the matter of attendance because they are not forced to have just a certain number of children present, or be dropped by a cruel park commissioner, or exacting school superintendent. Enough children are present to enjoy each amusement provided, but the crowds in one place are not dangerous. Parents as well are welcome, for I see mothers and some fathers also enjoying the playground.

May I close with this dream: "I saw a

playground fully equipped with up-to-date

play are wonderful people, blessed with a quadruple personality, including the loving sympathy of a Pestalozzi, the practical pedagogy of a Horace Mann, the social service of a Jane Addams, and the joyous enthusiasm of a Joseph Lee."

The teacher who "dreamed this dream and saw this vision" awoke to find herself in heaven!

EDWARD W. STITT,
District Superintendent of Schools, New York City

The slide may not be so dangerous, but the high-slide surely is, unless most carefully guarded. One of the best of the recent precautions is to use a ladder with small steps or treads instead of rungs. The ladder with rungs twelve inches apart leaves too much room for little ones to fall through. A side railing on the ladder is also essential.

Surely no one today will weaken "the steel frame-work" by threaded or bolted fittings when we have available the fitting with the double compression "dogs." I have used this fitting and it seems to eliminate the objections to other fittings almost entirely. This fitting has the advantage over the one with setscrews that it holds firmly when once tightened and leaves only a slight protuberance.

As to swings, might not the suggestion have well been added to hang the swings at two different heights and pave the ground beneath with creosoted blocks?

If the point is not too well-worn let it be urged that all teeter ladders be made non-adjustable so far as height is concerned. Smaller children are often injured by using a ladder left dangerously high by taller predecessors. The ladder though strong should be as light as possible and with the first rung well back from the handles.

I, too, should like to vote for the wading pool with a sand or mud bottom if I were sure no one would know it. But that sanitary inspector is on the job! And the participants in those "night carousals" around the sand-beds have a habit of also leaving broken glass in the wading pool, which register and report conditions to the parents who are also on the job. So

we are forced to vote for the cement pool as being so much better than nothing and well worth while in itself.

And then it seems like criticizing our victorious home team to discredit the sand-bed and slide because they are not exactly a communal type of play. I am not so sure that the playground is supposed to represent exclusively a communal type of play. Doesn't such a classification seriously limit our program? Such activities may place a premium on individual activity but their presence on the playground is certainly an aid to sociability at the same time. And, as mentioned, these things are not being furnished in back yards. In fact the city does not supply enough back yards. On the other hand, we don't care how much the trapeze is discredited!

T. McCance Black,

Recreation Secretary,

Montreal, Canada

While reading Dr. Henry S. Curtis' article on Playground Equipment I could not help saying to myself, "Them's my sentiments!" It is a masterpiece on the subject.

H. O. Berg, Supervisor of Recreation, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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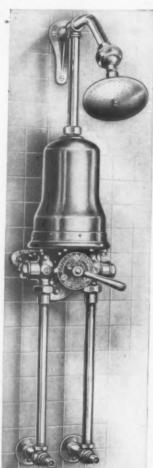
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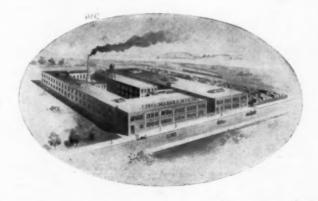
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